REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 6 have been amended, withdrawn claims 15-18 have been cancelled and no claims have been added. Thus, claims 1-14 are now pending in the application.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and allow the subject application in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As amended herein, independent claim 1 has been amended to delete the term "each." Furthermore, claim 6 has been amended to include the phrase "each of said attached members." Note that the scope of claims 1 and 6 has not changed. In light of the amendments to claims 1 and 6, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §112 rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 5-7 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ashe, Jr. et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,664,681). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites a system for fastening a dynamoelectric machine to a mount, the system comprising, among other things, a dynamoelectric machine having

a fastener hole and a fastener insert having a bore with pre-formed internal threads secured in the fastener hole for receiving a threaded fastener.

Ashe does not disclose a fastener insert have a bore with pre-formed internal threads. Instead, Ashe discloses an endshield 80 for a motor having a plurality of openings 100 and self-clinching nuts 120 which are inserted into the openings 100. Fasteners 108 are thread-forming screws that are tightened into, and simultaneously form threads within, the self-clinching nuts 120. See column 4, lines 16-19. Thus, even if the self-clinching nuts 120 are considered fastener inserts, they do not have pre-formed internal threads because the threads in the self-clinching nuts 120 are formed by the fasteners 108. Accordingly, Ashe does not anticipate independent claim 1 and claims 5-7 and 9-11 which depend therefrom.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-4, 8, and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C.§ 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ashe, Jr. et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,664,681) in view of SpinTite Fasteners or Janisse (U.S. Pat. No. 5,002,462). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2-4, 8 and 12-14 depend from claim 1, which recites a dynamoelectric machine having a fastener hole and a fastener insert having a bore with pre-formed threads secured in the fastener hole. As shown above, Ashe fails to disclose or employ a fastener insert having a bore with pre-formed threads. The Janisse and SpinTite Fasteners references fail to overcome these shortcomings of Ashe, as further explained below.

Specifically, Janisse discloses an industrial fan 30 having thru-bolts 31 and self locking nuts 34 mounted to a fan rear guard member 11. See Fig. 2. Thus, Janisse not only fails to teach or suggest a fastener insert having pre-formed threads, but also fails to even teach or suggest a fastener insert. Accordingly, the combination of Ashe and Janisse fails to render obvious independent claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom.

In regard to the combination of the Ashe and SpinTite fasteners references, Applicant notes that neither reference suggests the Examiner's proposed modification of Ashe. Specifically, Ashe lacks any disclosure or suggestion of using SpinTite fasteners in place of the self-clinching nuts 120. Likewise, the SpinTite fasteners reference lacks any teaching or suggestion of using such fasteners to attach a motor housing to a mount.

Further, neither Ashe nor SpinTite fasteners teach or suggest the advantages of using a fastener insert having a pre-formed internal thread. As disclosed in the subject application, fastening a dynamoelectric machine to a mount using a fastener having pre-formed internal threads enables use of conventional screws, which are typically less expensive than thread-forming screws such as those employed by Ashe. Further, using a fastener insert with a pre-formed thread provides less opportunity for cross-threading or stripping of threads. See paragraphs 0028 and 0032 of the subject application. Neither Ashe nor the SpinTite fasteners reference teach or suggest these benefits.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that combining Ashe and SpinTite is improper because Ashe teaches away from fastener inserts having pre-formed threads. As shown above, Ashe employs thread-forming screws (i.e., the fasteners 108) that are

tightened into and simultaneously form threads in the self-clinching nuts 120. Significantly, Ashe teaches that "[s]imultaneously forming the threads within openings 70 helps prevent loosening of the fasteners during operation of the motor." See column 2, lines 42-44. Thus, Ashe teaches away from using fastener inserts having pre-formed threads. For this additional reason, it would not have been obvious to combine Ashe and SpinTite fasteners in the manner suggested.

For all these reasons, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the §103 rejection of claims 2-4, 8 and 12-14.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (314) 726-7500.

Respectfully submitted,

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